

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Thailand/Indochina

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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SUBJECT Opinions of Tran Van An (Nguyen Van Hong)

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1. Tran Van An (Nguyen Van Hong)\*, head of the Viet Minh in Udon, is the most important Vietnamese figure in northeast Thailand. Apparently, Tran's administrative authority extends over all of northeastern Thailand. He is treated with great respect and some fear by the Vietnamese community. Tran does not speak Thai, but speaks both Vietnamese and French.
2. According to Tran, his mission is the economic well-being of Vietnamese refugees in northeast Thailand, who constitute the largest group of Vietnamese in Thailand. Thus, Tran is responsible for providing support for the entire Viet Minh administrative organization in Thailand, which organization must be in a state of readiness to aid the Ho Chi Minh forces in Indochina now, or in the future, in such ways as may be necessary.
3. Tran has stated to a non-Vietnamese that the Viet Minh elements allow themselves to be supported by the Communists because of necessity and not because of any ideological motive. Tran added that recognition by the USSR and Communist China has done much to strengthen Ho's fighting forces and the morale of Ho's supporters. In the future, Tran said, the Vietnamese do not care who comes to their aid; they have only one objective, that is, the liberation of Viet Nam from the French.

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